Title: Need to ensure early clearance of passport applications at Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (KAPADVANJ): Sir, more than 50,000 applications are pending at the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad. Besides the delay, there is also no accountability in dealing with the disposal of passport applications.

Also, poor condition is existing at the passport office with no parking accommodation. One can see long queues of passport seekers standing in the open or in inclement weather. To overcome this, more passport offices at Surat and Rajkot should be opened to facilitate passport seekers from early morning at A.M. to late evening. Further, CBI inquiry into the irregularities regarding the issue of passports should also be completed at the earliest.

It is reiterated that keeping in mind the existing difficulties at the passport office, the External Affairs Ministry should take necessary measures to prevent delay in the issue of passports and to ensure that all passport applications are disposed of within a period of 60 days from the date of application.